



"Sometimes it's good to be the boss."




Chaz

 [cvillette](https://cvillette.livejournal.com/)

<https://cvillette.livejournal.com/>
2008-10-03 14:45:00

MOOD: 😊 happy

All right.  [matociquala](https://matociquala.livejournal.com/) (<https://matociquala.livejournal.com/>) made me do it. Well, her and every other geek I know.

I too am now watching *The Middleman*.

And I'm not done with the first season yet, but I have to say the single coolest thing about this whole show is that the lead character is a woman of color, and the show--while characterizing her accurately--makes absolutely no fuss about it. She code switches and she's fluently bilingual and this is not at all a show about a Latina superhero.

It's a show about a superhero. Who is also an artist and a slacker hipster and a Latina.

...it's almost like the writers know real human people and talk to them on a regular basis.

TAGS: [tv](#)



[locked] [Dream Journal](#)


All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

[Elvis doesn't live here anymore.](#)

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

[Poppets. Puppets. Poppet puppets. Scary.](#)




 [barsukthom](#)

[October 3 2008, 18:56:41 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

What is truly shocking is how closely it holds to both the writing AND the spirit of the original comic. SHOCKING! I say.



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[October 3 2008, 19:30:47 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Off-topic: Hey Coyote, have you see [Coyote's Commandments](#)? I thought of you.



 [cvillette](#)

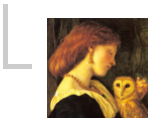
[October 3 2008, 19:35:02 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)


I have! Thank you.

And yeah, well, DUH.

BTW, I've been meaning to ask you. I have a small cat who will not let me see her, but who comes inside when it's raining if I leave the window open, as long as I am not in the room.

What do I do about winter?



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[October 3 2008, 20:27:17 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Well... tough one.

How not let you see her is she? At all and ever? Hanging out at a distance and glaring? Retreating tail going out the window? Is it only in bad weather or does she like to sleep in the warm, safe place at other times? It's tricky to know. There aren't a lot of right answers here, just best guesses given the situation.

If it were me, and I thought I could get away with it, I'd make her an indoor cat for the winter. If she's already coming inside on occasion, it's not a bad idea. I've done that twice with unwilling semi-ferals, when they were part of a partnership where the other cat quite clearly was ready for the indoor life and I couldn't stand to part them. It was a permanent move though, and I have little to no intention of releasing them again unless they were truly miserable inside.

What I saw was that they found a safe space in the house (and I did have an entire house, both times) to hide while I was around and they hid for the first two months. Bob confined himself the the inside of an easy chair. Orpheus hid behind the duct work in the basement. If I was home and moving about, that's where they were, although it was clear they were about and exploring otherwise (mostly because I'd see them retreating when I came downstairs in the morning). Eventually, after having observed that I was not, in fact, going to eat them, we made friends. They became affectionate and acclimated eventually, and seemed happier with their lot in life. Sunlight and soft blankets aren't that bad of a deal. Feral outdoor

life doesn't have much of a retirement plan.

I'd rather have them safe and hating me a little than left to the glorious freedom of freezing to death, and I wasn't asking anything of them other than that they be safe. If she's already coming inside, it might not be that much fun, but it might not be an unreasonable change.

I have known people who had ferals who moved inside during the winter and then went out again come spring, but it's not a dynamic I've balanced myself.

However, assume that might not be an option because your particular Angry Kitten might spend her days trying to bash through the windows (a little freaking out is okay. Unending freaking out just makes you both miserable), because we don't get the only vote here, and in my case, my unwillingly inside semi-ferals had the company of loved ones to keep them sane. I've heard it from plenty of other crazy cat ladies that the best way to tame a feral is to have them observe you with an already friendly cat, and without that proxy or ambassador, Angry Kitten might have a harder time trapped indoors.

You could also consider constructing a cat shelter for her if you can get permission to keep it on the property:

[Alley Cat Allies](#) guide


[Winter Shelter](#) (build your own)

[Feral Villa](#) (order online, also has links to a few more good sites)

Though not as nice as being an indoor animal, it's better than nothing. Given enough food and a good enough shelter, it would take a pretty bad winter to endanger her. She'll get a thick winter coat, and she'll need more food (some way to keep the water liquid as well). Cat shelters can sometimes attract competition predators, such as raccoons and opossums, though frankly if it attracted another cat, she'd be better off (if she can get along with them) as they huddle up for warmth. A lot of territorial ferals put disputes aside come the cold.


So the short answer, after all that long answer above, is that I don't know of a perfect solution to such an imperfect situation. You offer what help you can, and you try to offer help she can take. It might be worth it to risk pushing the situation, but if that is going to make things worse, you do what you can instead of what you can't. I don't think you can break the relationship by trying the indoor route, because at the base semi-ferals will stay where there's food.

Good luck. I'm glad you're looking after her and worried about her. Just because she hates you doesn't mean she doesn't love you too.

 [cvillette](#)
[October 3 2008, 20:35:03 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Making her an inside cat is not an option. My lifestyle does not permit pets. A cat shelter, however, is distinctly possible, and a great idea. Thank you.



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[October 3 2008, 20:59:18 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Although the ones pictured have the sides free to show the structure, straw bales piled next to the shelter provide good additional insulation and can add a windbreak to the shelter. The site below also mentions solar blankets on top of the shelter, to make the most of the winter sun.

Here's another page with some [shelters made out of rubbermaid bins](#). It has some good links to other sites as well.

(Am I bad for wanting to put a little "Go AWAY!" mat in front of one for her?)

Yeah, while it would be nice to be able to give her a life of luxury and ease, it might not be yours to offer or her desire to accept. I really would be leery of making an indoor animal out of a feral if there aren't other cats around; even my most beloved semi-ferals still love other cats more than they love me (I live with this as a reasonable compromise. I am honoured that they like me as much as they do). It doesn't sound like your place has enough territory to allow her to feel that she's not always near the monkey either. I'm probably guilty of being more of a fan of that solution than most, since I was lucky enough to have it work out for me fairly well.

You'll figure out what works for you and for her. We can't make the world perfect, but we can make it better. Every little bit helps.



 [cvillette](#)


[October 3 2008, 21:02:38 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Yeah. She only comes into the house if she's sure I'm not here, or sometimes when I'm sleeping. But she leaves trace evidence. I still see her on the stairs once in a while, but only if she doesn't know I'm in line of sight.

I have not been forgiven.



 [tamnonlinear](#)

[October 3 2008, 21:40:18 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

You have a ghost cat. It happens. It doesn't mean you aren't forgiven (she's still there, after all), it may just mean she can't give more. She's doing what she can, and so are you. It's not the worst, and it's not a judgment. It's just a limit, and she and you both have them.

Bob, one of the great feline loves of my life, took three months to forgive me for making him live indoors. Orpheus took about two, but he's still, years later, more conflicted than his daddy was. And that's with living with me and lots of other cats to repeatedly demonstrate that I was not a cat-eating monster.

I'm not quite sure how you can show that you're a good guy in her terms, when I can't guess at what her terms might be. She comes into your house, and she has a shelter and food she wouldn't otherwise have. It's not nothing. That warmth and caring and one place where she

can sometimes relax that she wouldn't have otherwise is making her world better. It counts. If it's all that she can receive out of all that you can offer, it's still worth it.

Thank you for that, and don't dismiss it.



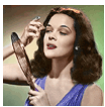
 [kayjayoh](#)

[October 4 2008, 04:18:23 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

We can't make the world perfect, but we can make it better.

I need to write this down somewhere. Preferably where I will see it often.

Thank you for saying that.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[October 3 2008, 19:34:54 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Toldja. =:~}



 [cvillette](#)

[October 3 2008, 19:37:07 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Yeah yeah. You and your eviller twin. Your embarrassing TV habit is metastasizing.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[October 3 2008, 19:39:50 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

There are SPOOOOOOOORES! I put them in the pie.



 [cvillette](#)

[October 3 2008, 19:40:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

At least it was good pie.



 [colomon](#)

[October 3 2008, 20:14:27 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

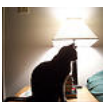
Is it out on DVD or something? I was watching it as it came out on ABC Family when my homemade DVR blew up, and I'd like to find out what happens next. Last I heard it had disappeared without a trace...



 [cvillette](#)

[October 3 2008, 20:17:08 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I borrowed it from a friend.



 [kenne](#)

[October 4 2008, 21:38:02 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Does this solution involve large amounts of bandwidth? If so, sucks to be me--I'll have to wait for the DVDs.



 [phiremangston](#)

[October 8 2008, 01:50:16 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I *just* started watching it this week.

I think I'm in love. ♥ The snark! The wit! The utter hilarity! *swoons*

[\[locked\] Dream Journal](#)

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[anymore.](#)

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